23rd January 1928]

Heavy punishments awarded to the accused convicted for attempting to deface the Neill statue.

*1272 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the name of the Magistrate who awarded the maximum punishment of two years in one case and eighteen months in another, both rigorous, to the accused convicted for attempting to deface the Neill statue;

(b) what service the above Magistrate has put in; and

(c) whether any submission was made on behalf of the prosecution to award such heavy sentences?

A.—(a) In no case connected with the Neill statue was a sentence of 18 months' rigorous imprisonment passed. In one case a sentence of two years' rigorous imprisonment was awarded for actually causing damage to the extent of Rs. 50 or more. The cases were tried by the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Rao Sahib P. Sambandam Mudaliyar.

(b) About three years and six months.

(c) No submission was made on behalf of the prosecution to award the sentence of two years, but in view of the recurring nature of the offences the Prosecuting Inspector asked for a deterrent sentence.

Ferries

Examination of ferry boats carrying passengers.

*1273 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any steps have been taken to examine the condition of the ferry boats used for carrying passengers in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara;

(b) whether the ferry boats are expected to carry a particular number of passengers;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, whether any agency has been employed to inspect these ferry boats; and

(d) whether in view of the danger involved in allowing boats to be overcrowded resulting in serious accidents, the Government propose to adopt measures for the safety of the public?

A.—(a) The Government are not aware of any special steps having been taken.

(b) Yes—the rules provide for this.

(c) No special agency is employed, so far as the Government are aware. The authorities to whom the management of the various ferries are entrusted have their usual executive officers for the purpose.

(d) The Government do not think that any special measures are required.